GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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THE ALMERÍA (SPAIN) STUDENT BUGLE CORPS SOUNDS ITS "A"

(See Bulletin No. 1)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Jaca: Brown-Walled City of Sham Battles

JACA, where Spain's late and unsuccessful revolution first broke out, is a brown-walled town famous chiefly for a sham battle fought by girls there on the first Friday in each May.

Jaca lies among the mountains, fewer than 20 miles from the crest of the lofty Pyrenees which form the French-Spanish boundary, but it can hardly be called a mountain town. This pocket of history perches, not on a mountain slope or ridge, but on a little hill that rises above a broad valley near the headwaters of the Rio Aragon. Travelers who approach it from the true hill towns to the north and east are impressed by the flatness of the dusty plain and by the squat effect produced by the huge brown walls that circle it.

Nestles Among Steep Hills

If one looks to the lofty peaks to the north, or journeys down toward the real lowlands of Spain, however, he realizes that there is much rough country surrounding Jaca. To the north the railway climbs rather steeply for 10 miles to Canfranc, where the Spanish rails come to an end.

A few yards from the station is the mouth of the great Somport tunnel that dives under the Spanish-French border. It is traversed by a French electric railway.

South of Jaca are eroded foothills of the Pyrenees, cut at places into deep canyons and isolated cliffs. This situation of Jaca, near one of the principal Pyrenees passes, and protected on the south, has made it of historical importance. Over Somport Pass (the Summus Portus of the Romans), the greater part of the army of Moors crossed from Spain into France in 732 when Mohammedanism threatened to overrun Europe.

Later Jaca became the headquarters of Christians in the reconquest of Aragon from the Moors. The city's coat of arms is a reminder of the long struggle with the dark aliens. It bears on a shield the heads of four sheiks.

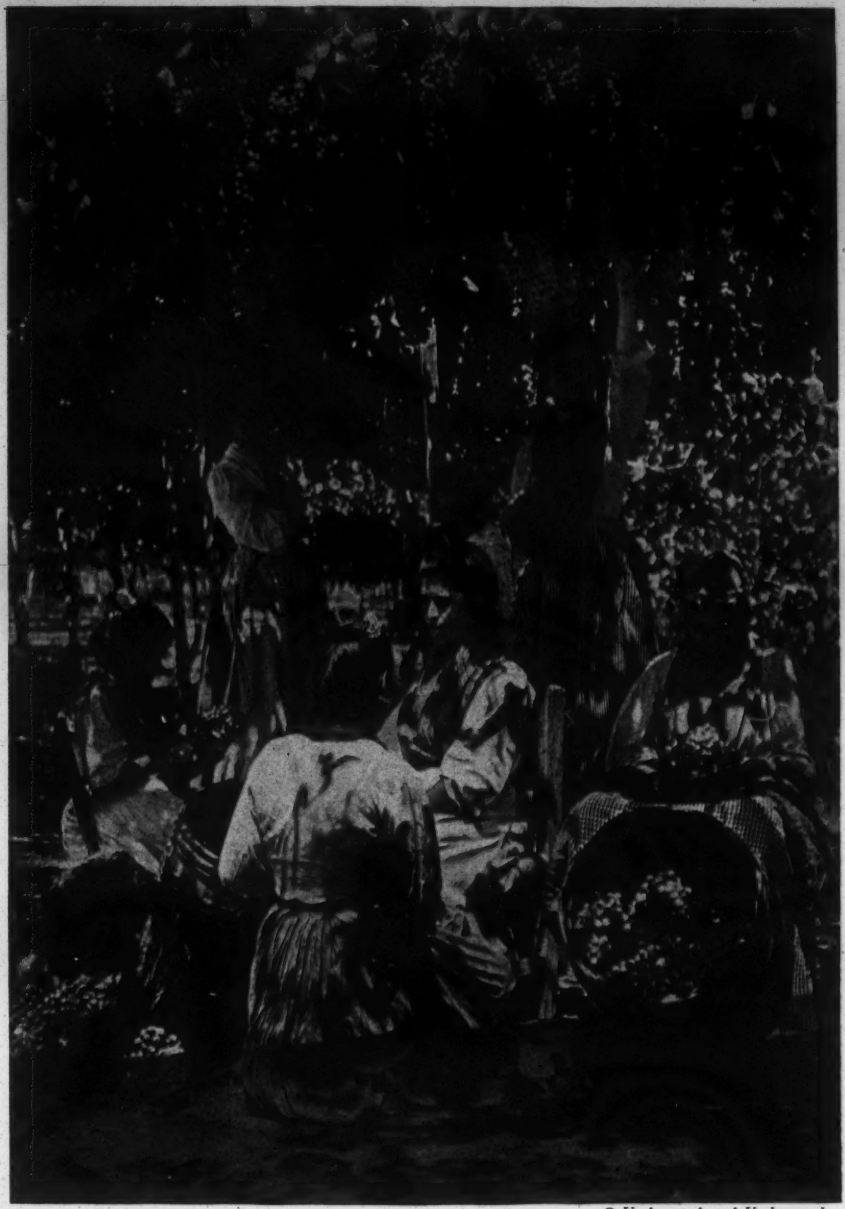
Girls Fight Sham Battle

When a final effort was made by the Moors to retake Jaca in 795, the women of the town fought and helped repel the attackers. This bit of Jaca's history is commemorated yearly on the first Friday in May, when the girls of the city fight a sham battle.

Jaca has always valued its independent spirit. Its *fueros*, a body of privileges that constitute a sort of local Magna Charta, are perhaps the oldest in Spain. They are kept in a chained book in one of the public buildings of the town.

Huesca, where loyal Spanish soldiers gathered to meet the forces marching from Jaca, is definitely outside the Pyrenees foothills, on a plain that at some seasons seems parched and seared, but at others is lush with irrigated crops. It was more than 300 years after Christians established themselves in Jaca before they were able to push southward 35 miles to Huesca and drive the Moors from that city. Both Jaca and Huesca were in Roman hands nearly two centuries before Christ.

Bulletin No. 1, January 12, 1931.



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GRAPES HAVE CARRIED MÁLAGA'S NAME AROUND THE WORLD

Vineyards provide work for many men and women in the region about Málaga, in southern Spain. The beautiful fruit is carefully picked, sorted, packed in cork, and sent abroad. The famous muscatels, too delicate to ship fresh, are converted into raisins and exported in large quantities (See Bulletin No. 1).

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Tutankhamen's Tomb Again Opened to Visitors

EIGHT years after its discovery, treasures are still being removed from the Egyptian tomb where King Tutankhamen's mummy remains.

While the work continues, however, tourists, in companies of six, will again descend the steep stairway. Each winter the tomb has been open to tourists. But each summer the entrance is filled with tons of earth to protect it from marauders.

After January 15, tourists may again spend two minutes in the tomb where priceless treasures were formerly piled like cordwood. Much more is known about King Tutankhamen to-day than eight years ago, but there is less to see than there was when the first correspondents were allowed to visit the three-thousand-year-old-shrine in February, 1923.

"Superheated Graveyard"

Maynard Owen Williams, staff correspondent of the National Geographic Society, present at the official opening of the tomb, recounts the historic event:

"This superheated graveyard was a silent spot," he wrote, speaking of the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings, near Luxor. "The correspondents spoke in whispers, as though the secrets of the spot would be violated by loud talk.

"One of the bosses quietly called two white-robed natives, who removed the curtain and the wooden hatch-work which closed the outer portal and carried two limp boards down into the shadowy depths.

"Conjecture at once began. It wanted only a 'My dear Watson,' to make the scene complete.

"About noon there arrived a squad of camels laden with food and drink for the distinguished guests. The last of them seemed to be sweating from the heat, an unusual phenomenon made clear when one noticed that his load was ice in gunny sacks.

"None of this feast was eaten by the guests, for the train which brought Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians, and Lord and Lady Allenby to Luxor was too late to permit lunching out there in the graveyard of royalty.

"Then came Lord Allenby in his motor-car, to wait near the barrier to welcome the Queen.

"All Modern Improvements"

"A motor rolled up; a white-clad figure alighted; there were numerous introductions, especially to those Egyptian officials present, and the Queen, with Mr. Carter leading the way, with Lord Carnarvon on her left and with Lord Carnarvon's daughter just behind, went down the incline that leads to the tomb mouth. Within a moment Her Majesty had entered the shadowy portal behind which Tutankhamen silently awaited her coming.

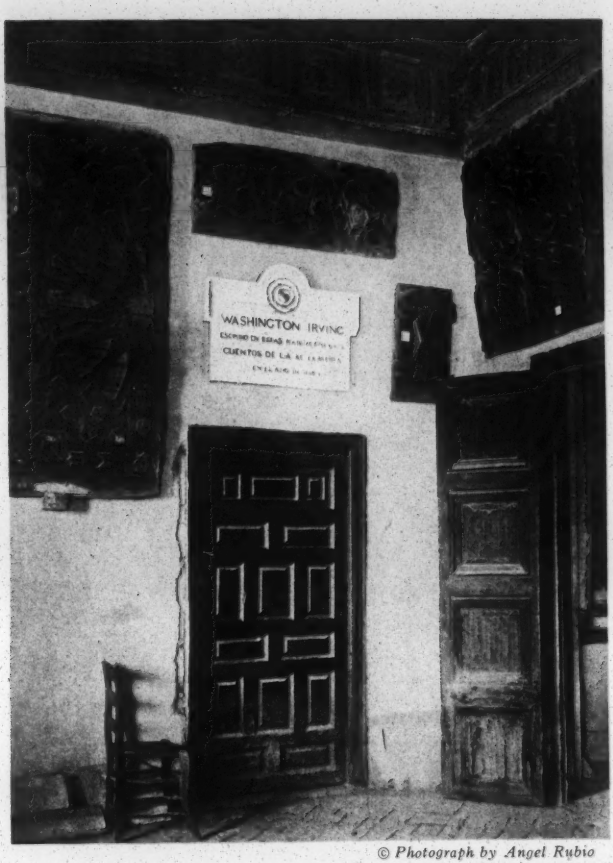
"On Monday, the day after the official opening, I entered the tomb, together with the first small group of correspondents. This is what I saw:

"Steep steps led down to an incline which ended at a new iron gate, beyond which there was a strong light. In these days the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings could almost advertise, 'All modern improvements,' as several of the tombs have long been lighted for the convenience of visitors, and Mr. Burton had, for the benefit of his official photographic work, a high-power electric bulb which made the first chamber we entered as light as day.

"Just behind the light, which was shielded by a rough board, was one of the nearly life-size figures of the king, stricken stiff by the sculptor and standing

REFERENCES ON BULLETIN NO. 1

Students preparing essays or economic articles about Spain will find additional reference matter in the following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine*, which may be consulted in your school or local library: "Pursuing Spanish Bypaths North of Madrid," January, 1931; "On the Bypaths of Spain," "Glories Past and Present of Northern Spain," and "In Andalusia," March, 1929; "From Granada to Gibraltar," August, 1924; "Land of the Basques," January, 1922.



© Photograph by Angel Rubio

A SPANISH MEMORIAL TO THE CREATOR OF RIP VAN WINKLE

Washington Irving, once American Minister to Spain, lived three months in Granada's great Moorish palace, gathering material for his book, "The Alhambra." To this day the people of the neighborhood refer to him affectionately and familiarly as "Washington."

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Quebec: In Some Ways More French than France

WHEN Champlain landed at Quebec in 1608 he had twenty-eight men. The following spring only eight were alive. The venture did not seem to be very hardy, nor very deep-rooted.

But more Frenchmen came, and still more. They spread into the fields and forests. They penetrated south, north and west. Not even the conquest of the country by the English stopped them. Today these expatriates are in some ways more French than the French of the Mother Country.

No "Parquement" near Fireplugs!

Recent visitors to the Province of Quebec bring back reports that the French language, instead of growing steadily weaker under British rule, has entrenched itself more firmly. Quebec, where the official language is French, has weighed each new English word that has knocked for admittance.

Across the sea France readily accepted the English word "parking." St. Hyacynthe, Canada, on the other hand, has announced in an edict of the Municipal Council its preference for the French equivalent "parquement." This is but one example of many in which the New France is more French than the Old.

Quebec, center of Gallic Canada, is described by William Dow Boutwell in a communication to the National Geographic Society:

"Everyone who lives in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, western Pennsylvania, Ontario, and Manitoba must regard Quebec as once the capital of his country, for all this country was once claimed by France.

The City on "Garlic River"

"Men from the St. Lawrence were the fathers of many great cities of these Commonwealths: Marquette, and later the Jesuits Pinet and Binneteau, founded Chicago by the Rivière de l'Ail (Garlic River); Laurent Solomon Juneau, Milwaukee; Pierre Laclède Ligueste established St. Louis; Cadillac, Detroit; Julien Dubuque, miner and trader, Dubuque, Iowa; Sieur Du Lhut, Duluth; Bienville, the soldier, New Orleans; and Iberville, his brother, Mobile, Alabama.

"Up Mountain Hill went Louis Joliet and Père Jacques Marquette to receive orders from dour Governor Frontenac. He sent them off on a canoe expedition which resulted in the exploration of the upper Mississippi River. Up the hill alone, on his return, went Joliet to draw from memory, for the governor, a map of their astonishing find, for Joliet lost the records and nearly lost his life shooting the Sault St. Louis (the Lachine Rapids).

"Up Mountan Hill went René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, to tell that New France now stretched to the Gulf of Mexico, and Father Louis Hennepin, to tell how Niagara Falls thundered; also to tell of reaching the falls where now stand Minneapolis and St. Paul, and of being captured by the Sioux.

"North America knows these intrepid Frenchmen to-day through names of lakes, hotels, automobiles, steamboats, and towns.

"The St. Lawrence unrolls a beautiful blue ribbon on which French-Canadians have strung farms, villages, and cities like pretty beads. Cultivated Quebec is a necklace; the rest of the Province is, as they say, 'bush.'

"An explanation of French-Canadian resistance to the North American melting pot can be found in birth-rate figures. While France itself has a very nearly

helpless in its vain attempt to guard the royal tomb, a gilt mace in one hand, a long gilt staff in the other, with a palmleaf guard below the hand. The portions of this statue which represented skin were the dark, almost black color which distinguishes the male figure from the female in Egyptian art.

"The official photographs show this statue and its twin on the other side of the doorway, at the right end of the transverse chamber. Their decorations are in gilt, if not in gold, and the feet—long, flat and shapeless—stand upon what may be gold sandals. Between these two statues was the entrance to the inner chamber, blocked by new timbers, so that one could not pass into the chamber itself.

"The distance between the huge sarcophagus and the rough walls is so small that one would have to pass with care. New boards, separated from the sarcophagus by soft buffers, protected the huge case in which Tutankhamen reposes.

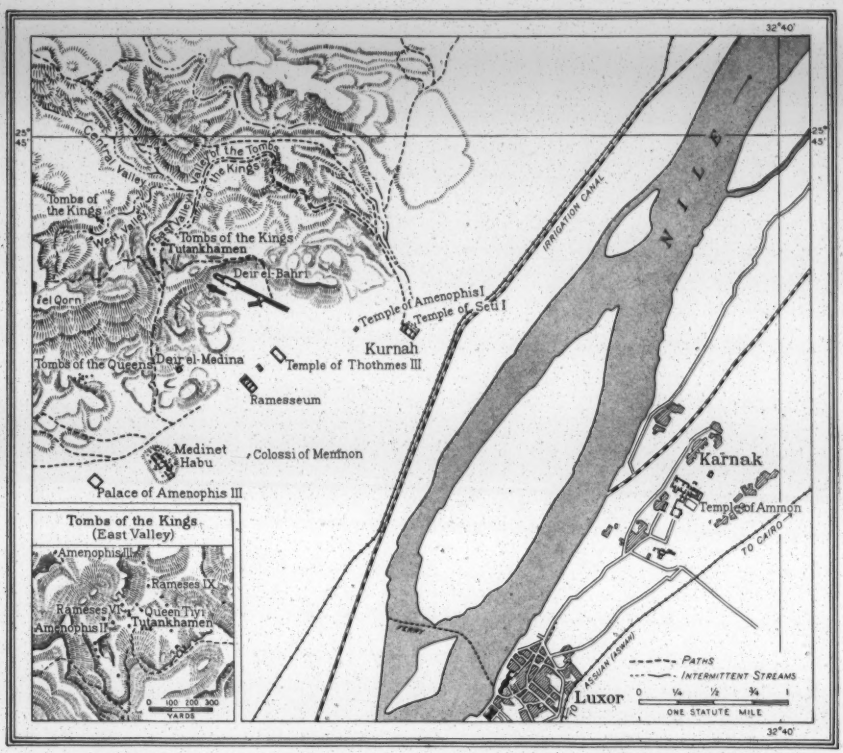
"'I suppose, if the mummy is in there, he will be wearing some fine jewelry,' said a lady present.

"'If he's intact, he'll be ragged out like a bloomin' Maharaja,' was the reply."

The matchless mummy cases and jewels in the Museum at Cairo prove that he was.

Bulletin No. 2, January, 12, 1931.

Note: See also in the *National Geographic Magazine* "At the Tomb of Tutankhamen," May, 1923; "Reconstructing Egypt's History," "The Reconstruction of Ancient Egypt," and "The Sacred Ibis Cemetery and Jackal Catacombs at Abydos," September, 1913.



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A MAP SHOWING TEMPLES AND TOMBS OF ANCIENT EGYPT AT THEBES

Probably no large graveyard occupies so unusual a site as the Tombs of the ancient Egyptian Kings at Thebes. West of the River Nile the skyline is broken by rough limestone cliffs whose color varies from hour to hour. The late Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter spent sixteen years searching for King Tutankhamen's tomb. Other explorers in ages past missed it by inches.

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Thousands of School Pupils to Write Letters to Admiral Byrd

"WORTHY to stand with the bravest and to share with them the highest honors," Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society, characterizes Rear-Admiral Richard E. Byrd in an article written for the tenth anniversary number of *The Journal of the National Education Association*. "No hero of a fiction story has had more glamour, more adventure, a greater struggle, or a finer success than that which marks the life story of Richard Evelyn Byrd."

Dr. Grosvenor calls the Antarctic Odyssey of the great explorer a brilliant episode in man's dramatic struggle for a higher civilization and the advance of science. He calls attention to the oft-neglected chapters of world history relating the adventures of great explorers whose deeds have accomplished so much for mankind.

"Patience, Energy, Perseverance"

"In difficulties he had to surmount to prepare himself for his task, Byrd yields first place to no man," says Dr. Grosvenor, as he commends the patience, energy and perseverance of the hero of Antarctica to the emulation of American youth.

Not only will Admiral Byrd's high courage and unyielding fidelity to his ideals impress millions of students, but his scientific achievements will add to the courses which they study and make safer and happier the lives they lead.

Scientific Findings Important

Observations of temperatures, humidity, and air velocity will aid weather forecasting, a science of increasing importance in an age of aviation. Extensive records of terrestrial magnetism add to the data which have a bearing on the charts for every ship that puts out of port and for every boundary and property survey made.

Masses of data on rocks and glaciers, on sea creatures and ice crystals, on new mountains, new bays, and new valleys which Byrd and the expedition members were the first to behold, will add to the science in which man strives to solve the mysteries of his unknown world.

Pupils to Have a Part in Their Superintendents' Meeting

Rear-Admiral Byrd will be the guest of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association at the annual convention held in Detroit, February 21-26.

He will there be presented with letters selected from thousands written by American school children who wish to pay him tribute for his character and achievement. These letters will represent every state in the Union, and practically all the larger cities. Their writing is being encouraged by school superintendents and teachers, who are utilizing the fine story of Byrd's achievements and his scientific findings to teach pupils the value of exploration.

In an introductory note to Dr. Grosvenor's article, the *Journal of the National Education Association*, says:

"Rear-Admiral Richard E. Byrd is to be the guest of the Department of Superintendence at Detroit and will address the general session Monday evening, February 23. A tribute to the intrepid explorer from the schools of America

stationary population, New France, in America, has one of the highest rates of natural increase among civilized countries.

"A few years ago the Provincial Government embarked on a policy of encouraging colonization in undeveloped valleys of the Laurentide Mountains. As an inducement, it at one time offered as a gift 100 acres to any prospective colonists who had twelve children. Land office clerks were confronted by some ambitious fathers demanding 200 acres claiming headship of families of twenty-four or more children.

"Canada held some 60,000 French when General Montcalm surrendered. This severed colony, which sprang from 10,000 immigrants, has increased in North America to a people estimated to number 3,500,000. They comprise more than one-fourth of the population of all Canada and more than half of the population of the Dominion's largest city, Montreal.

"There are about 1,000,000 French-Canadians in the United States who were born in Canada, and others are coming every year. Her children are one of Quebec's chief exports. Thousands have become capable workers in American textile mills and factories."

Bulletin No. 3, January 12, 1931.

Note: Color photographs and additional descriptive material about Quebec and Canada may be found in the *National Geographic Magazine's* "Old World Charm of Modern Quebec," and "Quebec, Capital of French Canada," April, 1930; "Canada from the Air," October, 1926; and "Great Britain's Bread upon the Waters," March, 1916.

© *Photograph by Bert Chesterfield*

FRENCH TRADITION LINGERS IN THE ISLE AUX COUDRES

The natives of this St. Lawrence River island are believed to be more purely 17th-century French than any other Canadian groups. Though the farmer uses a modern mowing machine, his domain remains just as it was when the house was built, centuries ago. Cartier discovered the island (northeast of Quebec City) and gave it its name, which means "Hazel Island."

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Boquete: the Simla of Panama

DISCUSSION of the cost of the proposed extension of the railway out of Boquete, Panama, again calls attention to the tiny hill town which is the Simla—the mountain resort—of the Panama Republic.

Boquete was first-page news last May when Rear-Admiral Byrd, returning from the chill Antarctic, landed at Panama City in the humid, rainy season, and sought a cool place to write his first account of his explorations and South Polar flight for the *National Geographic Magazine*.

Two Hours by Air; 36 by Steamer

Admiral Byrd's mode of travel there illustrates the isolation of the Republic of Panama, one part from another. He could not take the railroad; no rail lines run the length of the republic. He could have taken a steamer and in thirty-six hours or more arrived at the Pacific port of Pedregal, the port of David, and there taken a railroad to Boquete.

Instead he boarded an airplane at Panama City and flew in a little more than two hours to David, the third largest city of the republic. There he took the "Ferrocarril Nacional de Chiriqui" and rode 32 miles up the mountains on that narrow-gauge line. Boquete, at 4,000 feet, nestling in the mountains of Chiriqui Province, is like a kite at the end of the railroad's string. And this village helps give Chiriqui Province the title, "the sanitorium of Panama."

Hotel Is Run by Americans

Once arrived at lofty Boquete, the explorer found himself in the hands of compatriots, for the chief hotel, which has the whole Rio David Valley for a front yard and encircling mountains for a back drop, is run by Americans.

After leaving the Canal Zone, a plane bound for David flies over broad areas of impenetrable tropic forest with jungle so thick that no attempt has yet been made to link David by rail through the overgrown ravines and spurs to Panama City. But nearing David the forest clears in spots, for Chiriqui Province is the richest agricultural region of Panama.

Plateaus that rise in terraces from the seashore to the high peaks supply different climates at different altitudes, with the result that rubber may grow on one terrace, tobacco on the next higher and coffee farther up the foothills. Rich, volcano-fertilized soil at every level guarantees luxuriant growth. In the higher altitudes, up in Boquete's zone, everything raised in temperate zone regions can be grown.

A Trans-Continental Flight of Only a Few Minutes

Passengers of the plane have the thrill of "crossing the continent." For the pilot can show them the Pacific and in a few minutes swing over to the Atlantic side of the narrow republic.

Immigrants, even from far-away China, have recognized Chiriqui's opportunities and are swiftly developing farms and industries.

Riding behind the oil-burning, toy locomotive puffing on the steep grades from David to Boquete, the traveler looks out on an alluring countryside where plantations alternate with forests. Giant trees rising a hundred feet or more blaze with scarlet orchids or their branches may be garlanded with mauve, yellow or white blossoms of tropical vines.

In the dense oak forests of the highlands lives the brilliantly colored Quetzal, the bird that was sacred to the Aztecs and is the national bird of Guatemala.

is to be presented in the form of letters written to him by the children. Character in action is exemplified in the life of Admiral Byrd, and the study of his explorations is a constructive educational project. Teachers wishing their classes to participate in this historic letter-writing project may obtain details from the Department of Superintendence, 1201 16th Street N.W., Washingon, D. C.

Bulletin No. 4, January 12, 1931.

Note: For complete article by Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, entitled, "Byrd: The Explorer and the Man," see the January, 1931, issue of *The Journal of the National Education Association.* For illustrated accounts of his four major explorations see articles by Admiral Byrd in the following issues of the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Flying over the Arctic," November, 1925; "The First Flight to the North Pole," September, 1926; "Our Transatlantic Flight," September, 1927; "The Conquest of Antarctica by Air," August, 1930.

© Byrd Antarctic Expedition

DIGGING THE POLAR PLANE OUT OF ITS WINTER QUARTERS

Admiral Byrd's airplane that flew to the South Pole hibernated in a pit dug in the snow. The pit was roofed with canvas, covered with drifted snow. Getting the airplane in and out of this improvised hangar was one of the most laborious tasks the expedition's men had to perform. For Admiral Byrd's first account of his thrilling South Pole flight see pages 191-219, *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1930 (89 illustrations).

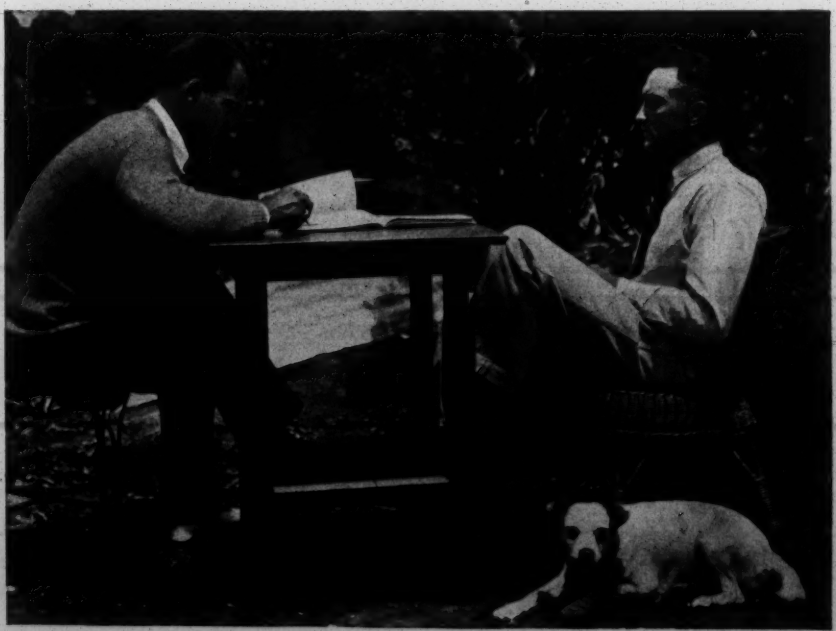
One of the "entertainments" which Chiriqui formerly extended to visitors was denied to Rear-Admiral Byrd because the government has put a stop to grave opening. Centuries ago the higher civilization of the Aztecs and other Indians to the northwest spread into the Chiriqui region. When these early residents died they were buried with pottery, gold ornaments and other objects. Discovery that the graves held gold came comparatively recently, and in one place resulted in a gold rush on an old cemetery that covered 12 acres.

It is estimated that a million and a quarter dollars' worth of gold has been taken from the graves. As a special favor to visitors, the natives would organize a search for old graves and open them. Sometimes the search was useless. Sometimes it yielded valuable finds. But a government edict has put a stop to this pastime.

Although their accomplishments are little known, the ancient Chiriqui Indians were experts in metal working. Not only did they cast gold but they also alloyed gold with copper, made bronze with copper and tin, and covered baser metal images with a gold wash, a process now accomplished by electroplating. How they covered objects with a film of gold is still an unsolved archeological mystery.

Bulletin No. 5, January 12, 1931.

Note: Panama and the great Panama Canal are described in detail in: "Battling with Panama Slides," *National Geographic Magazine*, February, 1914; "The Panama Canal," February, 1911; "The Dream Ship," January, 1921. See also in the *National Geographic Magazine*: "To Bogotá and Back by Air," May, 1928, and "Who Treads Our Trails," September, 1927.



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ADMIRAL BYRD SEEKS SHADE IN THE TROPICS TO WRITE REPORT OF HIS EXPEDITION FOR THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Immediately upon arriving at Panama, Admiral Byrd flew to the tiny mountain village of Boquete, Province of Chiriqui, Panama Republic, to prepare his first complete narrative of his expedition, his geographical discoveries, and his scientific findings. These were published in the August, 1930, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*, which may be consulted in your school or public library. Charles Lofgren, Admiral Byrd's secretary, is transcribing his notes. Igloo, the explorer's pet terrier, knows enough to keep quiet while his master dictates.